

02 JUL 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics  
Director of Security

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FROM: [redacted]

Chief, Safety Staff, DDA

SUBJECT: Asbestos in the Remington Rand Safes

1. In May of 1982, the Safety Staff was requested to analyze some debris which came from the walls of six Remington Rand security containers. The results of the analysis show 30% to 60% asbestos in the gypsum in five of the six containers.

2. This of itself is not a threat to the health of our employees, however, there are certain factors or acts that could produce quantities and sizes of asbestos fibers that would be dangerous. Individuals who rehabilitate these safes may sand or scrape the fire wall and create a dust containing sufficient quantities and sizes of asbestos to be a threat to their health. Also as the age of the units increase, gypsum matrix will deteriorate releasing asbestos fibers which could be of a size that is small enough to be trapped in the respiratory tract.

3. Users of these containers should be requested to vacuum the dust from the files and discontinue using the large metal tab file folders which rub the fire wall. It is not believed that the particles released by this scratching would create health problems for the employees, however, by removing these tabs the concern will be eliminated. As of February 1982, there were [redacted] Remington Rands in our facilities as counted by the Domestic Security Branch, Physical Security Division. It is felt that the Area Security Officers, who are familiar with the Remington Rands, would be the best conduit for reaching and briefing the users without causing undue concern among employees.

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4. We recommend the use of such security containers be discontinued as soon as possible. Additionally, GSA should be advised of the inherent hazards associated with the Remington Rands to preclude their being placed on excess property lists or sold at public auctions.

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cc: OSWR/TTAC/SCSG  
GSA Accident and Fire Prevention Branch